

axis of symmetry of revolution that intersects the axis of symmetry of the internal channel of the sleeve at right angles, providing the bottle with a new orifice that can be closed by a shut-off plate connected to a caliper which pivots, via the ends of its two parallel arms, about two journals integral with the sleeve, on which the arms pivot by means of a bore, the device being characterized in that the journals and the bores form cams that enable the pressure of the shut-off plate on the sliding-contact surface to be varied and in particular the pressure of the sealing means to be varied when the new orifice is closed using control means.

2. (Amended) The closing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a sealing means consists of a seal with a flexible lip integral with the new orifice, shaped essentially as a frustum of a cone of revolution, while the shut-off plate comprises, in the area that covers the new orifice, a small spherical cap with a diameter roughly the same as that of said orifice and with a radius of curvature of the spherical cap that is much greater.

3. (Amended) The closing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a control means is a lever integral with the parallel arms of the caliper.

4. (Amended) The closing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the closing device is produced from thermoplastic injection-molded parts clipped or welded together.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

The closing device consisting of a sleeve that seals onto the neck of a bottle and that comprises an internal channel which opens, via a new orifice in a sliding-contact surface with associated slopes and slideways acting as guide means to a shut-off plate for closing the new orifice which is moved translationally by a knob, which sliding-contact surface may be planar or in the form of a sector of a cylinder of revolution or in the form of a portion of a sphere.